Reviewer's report

Title: Australia's National Bowel Cancer Screening Program: does it work for Aboriginal Australians?

Version: 1 Date: 8 April 2010

Reviewer: Ian Olver

Reviewer's report:

The question addressed by this paper is highly relevant and timely to highlight as a partially implemented bowel screening program continues in Australia. The authors have been extremely thorough in analysing why the bowel screening program participation by the ATSI group is low. It is a strength that where direct evidence is lacking on possible reasons for this the authors have drawn on the experience of other indigenous cultures and indeed on issues learned from other screening programs. The paper is extensively referenced. The background is expansive and this may be one area for editorial scrutiny, but it is accurate and will help readers from diverse backgrounds understand the major issues. An important feature of the paper is that the authors have not only identified problems but have suggested an extensive list of solutions. The use of summary tables of the major issues is very useful here. The paper will become an important resource on this topic. I have no revision to suggest.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests